Abortion controversies flare on 2 campuses

NEW YORK—A student art exhibit that uses rosary beads and pictures of naked women to promote abortion rights has caused controversy at LaGuardia Community College.

A professor covered the exhibit (*below*) with black paper after he said he felt pressured by administrators to take it down. The exhibit, called "Beatitude," was assembled by two photography students, Lillian Pons (*left*) and Susan Bastian.

Administrators later decided that the paper should be taken down and the exhibit left up.

At Wichita State University, abortion-rights groups complained when the university allowed its football stadium to be used for a large anti-abortion protest. University officials defended their decision, saying that they allow facilities to be used by any group that is not engaged in fund raising, pays for expenses in advance, and allows students to attend. ■

JACK MANNING/NEW YORK TIMES

Campuses reach pact with Baptists

GREENVILLE, S.C.—Officials at Furman University have reached an agreement with the South Carolina Baptist Convention that would allow them to share responsibility for selecting university trustees.

The pact came nine months after Furman trustees voted to take control of the trustee-selection process from the convention. Before then, the convention had sole responsibility for selecting the trustees.

University officials have said that control by conservative Baptists poses threats to academic freedom. Under the agreement, Furman would submit 10 names to the convention for the five new trustee positions that open annually. The convention would fill the five slots with those recommended by Furman. The agreement must be approved by the South Carolina Baptist Convention.

Regents at Baylor University also reached an informal agreement with Baptist leaders that could heal a year-long rift over university governance. The agreement calls for Baylor to elect 75 per cent of the university's regents and the convention to elect 25 per cent. It stipulates that university and convention leaders should communicate openly about the selection process.

The final agreement must be approved by the Baptist General Convention of Texas. ■

Corrections

■ A story and table about the academic 1990-91 pay and benefits of college presidents (*The Chronicle*, July 3) contained some incorrect figures. One quarter of the presidents received supplemental income from their own institutions in addition to their regular salaries: 3.9 per cent received a bonus, 6.1 per cent received a salary supplement, and 14.6 per cent received other institutional income. The proportions of presidents receiving income from sources other than their institutions are as follows: paid corporate directorships, 11 per cent; honoraria or lecture fees, 6.6 per cent; consulting, 2.3 per cent; and other sources, 2.3 per cent.

■ An article about the ethnicity of nominees to the Alabama State University board incorrectly described the race of State Sen. Crum Foshee, chairman of the Senate Confirmations Committee (*The Chronicle*, July 31). Mr. Foshee is white.

■ A listing of sports champions in academic 1990-91 (*The Chronicle*, July 21) incorrectly identified the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics' men's golf champion. It is the University of North Florida.

■ An article about the Education Department's research programs (*The Chronicle*, August 7) incorrectly stated that Columbia University's National Center for Restructuring Education, Schools, and Teaching receives financial support from the Education Department. ■

PORTRAIT

School of Mines Applies Expertise to the Environment

By GOLDIE BLUMENSTYK

GOLDEN, COLO.

Not far from where 19th-century prospectors first realized the need for a mining college, faculty members from the Colorado School of Mines are testing an artificial wetland that removes lead, cadmium, copper, and other metals from water that has passed through hundreds of abandoned mines.

The wetland experiment is hardly the kind of mineral-extraction work on which the School of Mines' reputation was made. But the project aptly illustrates the institution's new interest in applying its expertise in the science and technology of earth resources to environmental concerns.

The School of Mines can no longer be accurately characterized as "the earth utilizer," says Ronald R. H. Cohen, associate professor of environmental sciences and engineering and one of the developers of the artificial wetland.

As recently as 14 years ago, the Colorado School of Mines did not have a single course in environmental studies, much less a department, a graduate program, or a reputation for ground-breaking research in the field.

Now, its environmental-science professors are evaluating hazards of plutonium leaks from nuclear power plants, its geophysicists are developing a computer data base to map potential paths of underground toxic seepage, and its chemists are studying alternate fuels for cars and trucks in an attempt to eliminate the "brown cloud" of pollution over nearby Denver.

The decision to expand the institution's focus beyond its historic strengths in mining and oil exploration was designed to make the School of Mines less dependent on the volatile fortunes of resource-based industries, on which it had long depended for financial support and as employers of its graduates.

While the new direction has created some uneasiness in departments that have traditionally dominated the institution, like mining engineering and petroleum engineering, other faculty members and supporters of the school say the interest comes none too soon.

Before the School of Mines adopted this new direction, says Sally V. Allen, a trustee, "there were fears that the school could become obsolete."

Principles of conservation and environmental studies had not been ignored in the school's traditional disciplines over the past few decades, faculty members say. What is new is the pronounced effort to establish the school as a leader in basic and applied environmental sciences.

'Responsible Stewards'

"We now talk about ourselves as responsible stewards of the environment," says George S. Ansell, the institution's president since 1984.

Founded by gold and silver prospectors, the School of Mines survived for five years as a private institution until 1874, when the Colorado Territorial Legislature, seeing the need for a publicly sponsored school to develop better mining and exploration techniques, assumed control.

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Environmental-science professor Ronald R. H. Cohen: The Colorado School of Mines is no longer simply "the earth utilizer."

Evolving with the mining industry itself, the school later added disciplines in geophysics, engineering, and metallurgy. Today it boasts 200 faculty members and enrolls nearly 2,400 people—about a third of whom are graduate students.

Under Mr. Ansell the institution is aggressively pursuing government and private contracts in environmental research. Many mining and oil companies that have historically supported the school's research have been generous sponsors of the new environmental projects.

Antique drills, carts, and other pieces of obsolete mining equipment adorn the lawns and pathways of the campus like outdoor sculptures.

The school's department of environmental sciences and engineering ecology was established in 1981 and began awarding master's degrees in 1984. The department has grown from 2 full-time faculty members to 10, and more faculty members will be added in the next few years when a doctoral program gets under way.

Faculty members say Mr. Ansell's push to diversify the school into environmental studies—and related efforts to strengthen computing and physics—has kept the school on stable financial footing and allowed it to thrive. The Colorado School of Mines is the largest of the four remaining free-standing mining schools in the country. Others, including those in Utah and Missouri, have become schools or departments of larger universities.

Mr. Ansell says the development of new programs has also allowed the school to be "much less a captive" of the up-and-down business cycles in the resource industries. The school learned a bitter lesson about that in the early 1980's, when upheavals in oil and mining were reflected in a dramatic drop in undergraduate applications. The number of undergraduates majoring in mineral engineering has fallen to 65 today, from about 330 in the late 1970's.

'Our Heart and Soul'

But Mr. Ansell says the school's success in attracting students and grant sponsors to other fields, like environmental sciences, allows it to continue supporting its specialized programs in mining, petroleum exploration, and geology—fields he calls "our heart and soul."

The mining tradition is still evident on the picturesque campus. Antique drills, carts, and other pieces of obsolete mining equipment adorn the lawns and pathways of the campus like outdoor sculptures. Diplomas for graduate students, and for undergraduates who are willing to pay, are etched on silver and signed by the president with an engraving tool.

Students enrolled in mining engineering even do on-site class work in mine safety, ventilation, and blasting at the school's experimental Edgar Mine about 30 miles from the campus, although the accidental death of the mine supervisor there last October has prompted the institution to reconsider the academic value of its mine practicum.

The expertise that makes the school a leader in locating, extracting, and processing resources fits naturally into the environmental-sciences initiative, Mr. Ansell says. Even if it did not, he adds, the School of Mines would keep the traditional programs. "Without those pieces," he says, "we would not be whole." ■

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"They looked shrill, dishonest, and intellectually intemperate."
Columnist George Will, on opponents of nominee to NEH council: A36

"Like water dripping on sandstone, ubiquitous and incessant negative racial depictions cause a pervasive harm that only the hardiest can resist."
A law professor at U. of Colorado: B2

"Classics and technology are light years apart. Some classicists still view the electric typewriter as an instrument of the devil."
Director of an electronic data bank of ancient Greek literature: A24

"It certainly is better to merge than to go down the drain."
A former trustee of Tift College (now part of Mercer U.): A39

"Some presidents are ready to say, 'A pox on all your houses. We'll just go with the regional accreditors and let the specialized groups go their own way.' "
President of American Association of State Colleges and Universities: A1

"Recent developments in the humanities are very much open to criticism. But there's a difference between reasoned criticism and a campaign of ill-informed abuse."
A professor at U. of Chicago: A21

"Socrates would have had a tough time teaching in Germany."
A professor of religious studies at U. of South Florida: B3

"Sometimes I was just furious with her. A few times, I found myself breaking down and weeping, her despair and frustration were so credible. I began to feel intimately familiar with her in ways that were unique to any relationship a biographer might have."
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Senate Approves Big Computer Link for Colleges, Labs

Passage of bill breaks logjam on creating national network

By SCOTT JASCHIK

WASHINGTON

The Senate voted last week to create a new national computer network that would link hundreds of universities, laboratories, and libraries and transmit more information at much faster speeds than is possible in current networks.

The vote broke a legislative logjam and was hailed by computer scientists as a major step forward in the effort to create the new system, which will be called the National Research and Education Network, or NREN.

The House of Representatives passed a version of the legislation in July, and Bush Administration officials have endorsed the concept. Although the House and Senate bills differ and the Administration is expected to resist some provisions in both of them, supporters of the network expressed confidence that last week's vote meant an agreement on the legislation was possible.

'We're All Just Delighted'

"We've been hoping to get a piece of legislation out for a few years and we've been frustrated by the delays, so now we're all just delighted," said Fred W. Weingarten, executive director of the Computing Research Association, an organization of computer-science departments and of engineering and industrial laboratories that conduct basic research in the field.

At the same time, however, the bill's supporters warned that the network still had a long way to go. While the legislation authorized the creation of NREN, it did not provide any money to operate it. Most of the money will have to come from financially strapped states and universities, so it may be years before NREN is fully operational.

The Senate bill would authorize federal spending of more than $1-billion over the next five years, while the House would authorize spending of $2.9-billion. Congressional aides have said that regardless

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Public High-School Graduates by Race

	1981	1995
American Indian	0.7%	0.8%
Asian	3.1	4.3
Black	13.2	13.4
Hispanic	6.6	9.2
White, non-Hispanic	76.3	72.3

SOURCE: WESTERN INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

STORY ON PAGE A40

TOO MUCH POWER?

Specialized Accrediting Agencies Challenged by Campus Officials

By COURTNEY LEATHERMAN

Academic administrators who have long felt that campuses were being held hostage to the many specialized groups that accredit everything from acupuncture to architecture are starting to fight back.

Under increasing pressure to control costs and improve general education, some administrators are taking steps to limit the clout of the specialized organizations. Others are considering abandoning the groups altogether.

At issue is whether too many accreditors are wielding too much power at too high a cost to institutions of higher education.

"So many of the standards are so difficult to meet that institutions are becoming a little more quarrelsome."

Unlike the six regional accrediting groups, which evaluate entire institutions, as many as 90 specialized groups accredit particular programs. In some states, programs must earn specialized accreditation before their graduates can take standardized license exams.

"What's happened now is that so many of the standards from the specialized groups are so difficult to meet that the institutions are becoming a little more quarrelsome," says Donald W. Zacharias, president of Mississippi State University, where 36 different groups accredit programs in 57 departments.

Adds James B. Appleberry, president of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities: "Some presidents are ready to say, 'A pox on all your houses. We'll just go with the regional accreditors and let the specialized groups go their own way.' "

These are among the signs that critics are preparing to challenge the specialized groups:

- Officials of the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges and the American Association of State Colleges and Universities have proposed tightening the criteria used to recognize new accrediting groups. Their proposal calls for accreditors to demonstrate more convincingly why they are needed—by the educational community and the public—before they are recognized by the Council on Postsecondary Accreditation, an umbrella organization for accrediting groups.
- In an unusual move, members of the state-college association met in June with the head of the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher

Continued on Page A22

More Small Colleges Merge With Larger Ones, but Some Find the Process Can Be Painful

By KAREN GRASSMUCK

For one college it brought an end to 50 years of "running on a shoestring." For another, it meant adding a small downtown campus to its sprawling suburban location and offering for the first time academic programs in art, design, and even funeral management. At a third, it so enraged some alumnae that they waged a bitter two-year legal battle against the board of trustees.

Those wildly varying results have all been achieved through college mergers, a phenomenon that is on the rise. Many colleges, swerving between the Scylla of dwindling enrollments and the Charybdis of rising operating costs, are finding what appears to be safe harbor by merging their operations with larger institutions.

Cutting Administrative Costs

Interest in mergers is especially strong at small, private liberal-arts colleges, particularly those in New England, the Mid-Atlantic states, and parts of the Midwest. Two-year colleges and vocational schools are also part of the trend.

By merging and sharing operations with other institutions, colleges can cut a variety of administrative costs, ranging from maintenance to recruiting. Mergers in the past few years have included Mundelein College and Mallinckrodt College with Loyola University; Mercy College with the University of Detroit; Hartford College for Women with the University of Hartford; and Mannes College of Music into the New School for Social Research.

Vocational institutions, too, have merged in the last few years, including the Cooper Institute into Knoxville Business College and Massasoit Community College and Blue Hills Technical Institute. Last year, the trade-school ranks had dwindled to 7,071, from 8,469 in 1989, according to Department of Education data.

Some observers have sought to draw a parallel between academic mergers in the 1990's and the corporate mergers and take-

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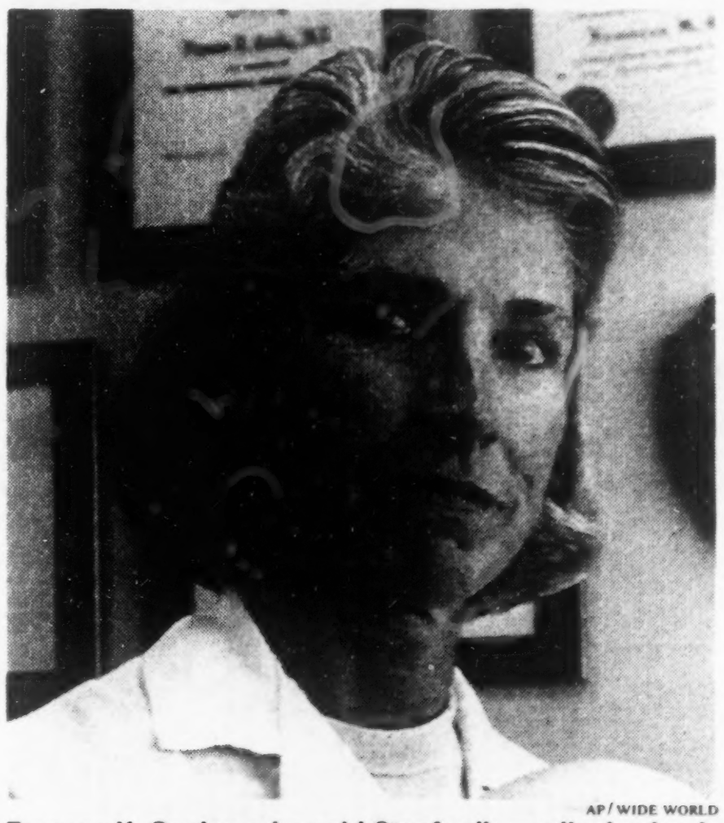

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MARGINALIA

Course listing in the catalogue at Hope College:

"317. New Testament Ethics—A study of the moral teachings of the New Testament and the irrelevance for contemporary Christian ethics."

Should have been "their relevance," a professor in Hope's religion department assures us.

■

From *Mosaic*, a newsletter published by the libraries at the University of Notre Dame:

"Some of the areas in and around the Library have been cleaned due to a gentle reminder from the Staff Committee, for example:

"The windows and the reflection pool. Also the Staff Lounge was exterminated when needed."

■

Note from an insider at the University of Connecticut:

"In a draft of a news release from the University of Connecticut concerning a School of Pharmacy research project that studies how the brain is affected by the chemical THC—the active ingredient in marijuana and hashish—the writer tried to give credit where credit is due with the following statement:

" 'The new photoreactive molecule has been tested in a joint project with the University of Massachusetts and the Saint Louis University Medical Center.'

"The unfortunate word 'joint' was weeded out before the presses rolled."

■

From the University of Nebraska at Kearney *Antelope:*

"Although the official transition from KSC to UNK took place on July 1, another celebration which will involve students, faculty and the community is scheduled for Sept. 13. . . .

"Following the convocation, Dr. Charles Glassic will be presenting a speech. . . . Glassic is involved with the Carnage Foundation."

We'd rather not know *how*.

■

Meanwhile, *The Evergreen* of Washington State University carried an ad telling faculty members:

THE DEAD LINE TO ORDER
CAPS AND GOWNS FOR THE
PRESIDENT'S CONVOCATION
IS SEPTEMBER 6TH AT 4:00 PM

■

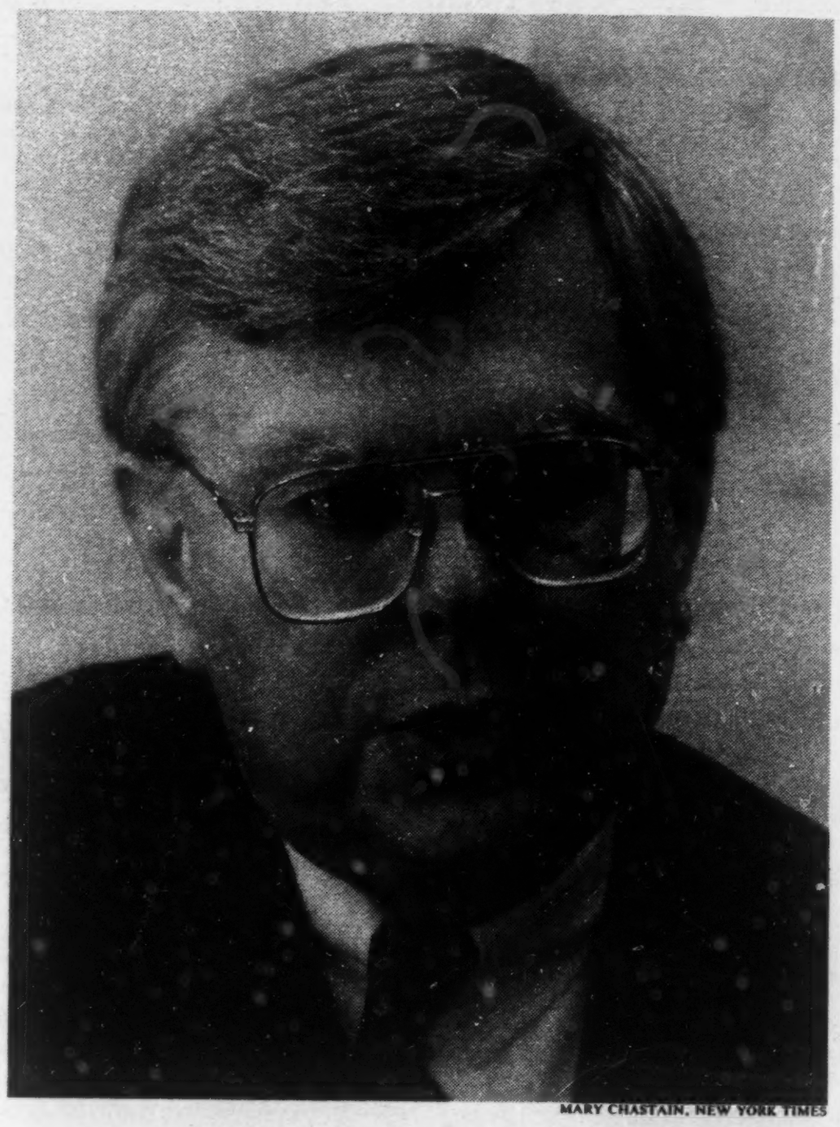
Note in the Brigham Young University *Daily Universe:*

"Things as simple as going to the grocery store or to a play have become nearly impossible. Imagine pushing your shopping cart through Smith's around midnight on Friday. The employees are stalking the shelves, so you have to make your way around boxes and crates."

Careful! Don't trip over those stalkers!

—C.G.

In Brief



MARY CHASTAIN, NEW YORK TIMES

Holderman gave awards totaling $1.4-million

COLUMBIA, S.C.—The University of South Carolina has released the names of 381 students who received scholarships under a program administered at the discretion of its former president, James B. Holderman (*above*).

Among the names listed are the children of prominent federal and state officials, including the sons of Sen. Mark Hatfield, an Oregon Republican, and of Lawrence Eagleburger, Deputy Secretary of State. The university confirmed that Senator Hatfield's son had received $11,350.50 from 1983 through 1988, while Mr. Eagleburger's son received $400 from 1987 through 1989. Senator Hatfield has already acknowledged that his son received aid. Mr. Eagleburger could not be reached for comment.

Mr. Holderman retired in June 1990 and later pleaded guilty to using his position to earn $25,000 in illegal compensation.

A total of $1.4-million in aid was awarded under the scholarship program. No published rules governed how the money was given. John M. Palms, the current president, said he had released the names because "the privilege of privacy is outweighed by the public's right to know" who received the aid. ■

Trustee sentenced on embezzling charges

VENTURA, CAL.—A trustee of the Ventura Community College District has been sentenced to one year in jail for embezzling more than $15,000 from the district.

The trustee, James T. Ely, also was ordered to pay $14,400 in restitution after being convicted by a jury on 29 counts of embezzlement, fraud, and conspiracy.

Mr. Ely served as a trustee of the district from 1979 until his sentencing this month. He and his wife were found guilty of padding expense accounts, overestimating mileage for personal-car use, and purchasing dinners at district expense. ■

Back in the saddle at U. of Connecticut

STORRS, CONN.—After a 12-year hiatus, the University of Connecticut has started using a horse again as part of a new mounted police patrol.

The horse, an 11-year-old Morgan named UC Danegeld, or Danny, will be ridden by Officer Rhoda Averna (*right*). The horse is one of 66 owned by the university and maintained by its Equine Science Program, which performs research on breeding. Students feed the university's horses, which also are used in the institution's Morgan Drill Team.

The campus police stopped using horses in 1979. The animals were then owned by the police force, and caring for them cost too much, said Donn A. Herindeen, a major on the university force. Mr. Herindeen said it was easier for officers to patrol on horseback than in cars because horses are not restricted to roadways. ■

UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT

Fraternity members fined on forgery charges

AUSTIN, TEX.—The University of Texas chapter of the Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity has been fined $10,000 after pleading no contest to forgery charges.

According to Travis County Attorney Ken Oden, fraternity members retaliated against a neighbor who had complained about loud music by ordering pizzas, magazine subscriptions, and health-club memberships in his name. Under the plea agreement, fraternity members can pay half the fine by spending a total of 2,000 hours on a community-service project.

Meanwhile, the family of a University of Texas student who died during a fraternity hazing incident has settled a lawsuit against the fraternity and its former members for a total of $1.9-million.

The student, Mark Seeberger, died of alcohol poisoning in 1986 after being driven around in a van with other fraternity pledges and being pressured to drink a large amount of alcohol.

Mr. Seeberger's parents, Joan and Jeff Seeberger, sued the fraternity, Phi Kappa Psi, and 10 of its former members. The settlement was reached just before the case was to go to trial. ■

Skull and Bones alumni move to block women

NEW HAVEN, CONN. — Eight alumni of Skull and Bones, the secret, all-male society at Yale University, obtained a court order this month barring the induction of new members. This year's induction, due to take place earlier this month, was to have included women for the first time in the organization's 159-year history.

A New Haven Superior Court judge scheduled a hearing for September 30 to decide whether the plaintiffs—which include conservative columnist William F. Buckley, Jr.—can block the initiation until the society can meet to discuss the admission of women.

Last year's senior class tapped a group of six women and nine men to be inducted this fall. The alumni directors initially said they would not recognize the 15 students, and they locked undergraduates out of the "Tomb," the club's headquarters. But members from across the country later voted 368 to 320 to admit women.

P. Jay Fetner, an alumnus of the group, has started a petition drive seeking to have the election results set aside, a new board of directors installed, and the admission of women reconsidered. ■

PETER MORENUS, CORNELL UNIVERSITY

Cornell U. opens American Indian house

ITHACA, N.Y.—Cornell University has opened what is believed to be the first American Indian student residence hall.

Named Akwe:kon, a Mohawk word meaning "all of us," the building was designed with a unique American Indian character. The hall will house about 35 students, about half of whom are American Indian. Many are enrolled in Cornell's 10-year-old American Indian program, which provides academic counseling and special activities for students. Ron LaFrance (*above*), a Mohawk who directs the program, will work with students at the house. ■

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